

NEW EYES FESTIVAL

THEATER MU | APR 9 - 10, 2022



SAYMOUKDA DUANGPHOUXAY VONGSAY

KATIE KA VANG and **MELISSA LI**

KEIKO GREEN

Jun 8 - Jul 31, 2022

A Jungle and Theater Mu
co-production

CAMBODIAN ROCK BAND

by **LAUREN YEE**

featuring songs by
DENGUE FEVER



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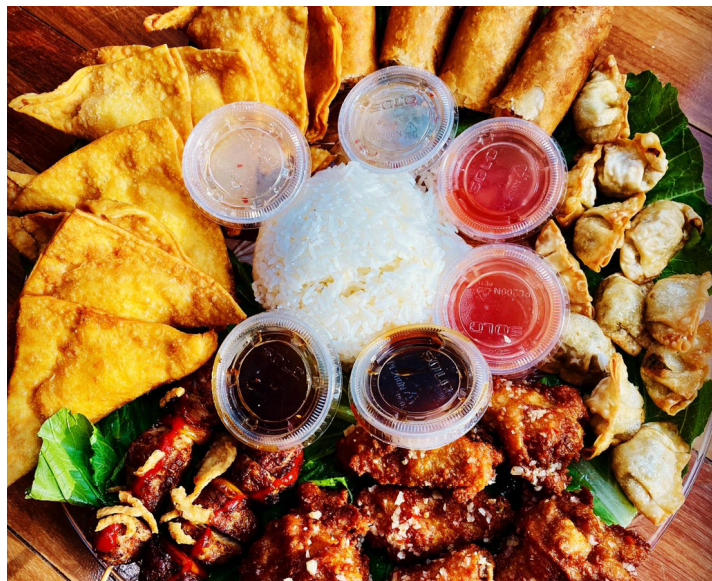
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NEED DINNER ON SATURDAY?

VISIT KCM EGG ROLLS & BLACKSTACK

Mention **NEW EYES** for 20% off food and \$1 off full-size pours.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

NEW EYES FESTIVAL began in 1993 under the direction of Dong-Il Lee and Mu Founding Artistic Director Rick Shiomi. As our theater has grown and changed over the past three decades, its mission has stayed the same—to create and amplify stories that show all aspects of our Asian and Asian American experiences. Needless to say, New Eyes fits right into the heart of this, which is why the festival remains our longest running tradition.

This year’s festival features longtime Theater Mu artists **Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay**, who is also our Andrew W. Mellon Foundation playwright-in-residence, and **Katie Ka Vang**, who has teamed up with composer **Melissa Li**. Rounding out the weekend’s line-up is **Keiko Green**, a San Diego-based playwright who was part of our inaugural playwrights’ cohort, the Mu Tang Clan.

Their stories take us to Laos during a zombie apocalypse, reflect our everyday lives and its modern heartbreaks, and bring us back to our awkward high school days where we had to learn how to find our own power—and maybe save the world while doing it. (Was that not your high school experience?) Each script highlights different parts of humanity, and we are thrilled to be part of their development.

NEW EYES SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, APR 9, 2022

4 p.m. CT

Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Shaman Warrior

by Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay

6-7:30 p.m. CT

Supper Break

Swing by KCM EggRolls food truck and BlackStack! If you mention “New Eyes,” you will receive 20% off your food order and \$1 off full-size pours!

7:30 p.m. CT

Again

book and additional lyrics by Katie Ka Vang
music and lyrics by Melissa Li

SUNDAY, APR 10, 2022

5 p.m. CT

Exotic Deadly: or the MSG Play
by Keiko Green

Thank you for joining us for our 28th annual New Eyes Festival.

We hope to see you soon at Lauren Yee’s *Cambodian Rock Band*, our co-production with Jungle Theater this summer from Jun 8-Jul 31!

KUNG FU ZOMBIES VS. SHAMAN WARRIOR

by **SAYMOUKDA DUANGPHOUXAY VONGSAY**
directed by **LILY TUNG CRYSTAL**

CAST

Mohn, Hanuman, Ghost Khwan, Villager	ALEX GALICK *
Mara Latimer, Haunting Voice	AYDEN HER
Louang Khao, Rusee, Demon, Man	JEANNIE LANDER
Grandmother (Mae Thao)	TOM REED
Noy, Villager, Disciple	RICH REMEDIOS *
Saeng, Jambavan	LIA RIVAMONTE
Arun	JANET SCANLON
Stage Directions	KAYSONE SYONESA
	DEXIENG YANG
	KAVYA SHETTY

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	AJAH WILLIAMS
Dramaturg	C. “MEAKS” MEAKER
COVID-19 Safety Coordinator	BARRY INMAN



SAYMOUKDA DUANGPHOUXAY VONGSAY (PLAYWRIGHT)

Saymoukda (she/her) is an award-winning Lao American poet, playwright, public artist, and cultural producer. She’s a recipient of a Sally Award for Initiative from the Ordway Center for Performing Arts, which “recognizes bold new steps and strategic leadership undertaken by an individual ... in creating projects or artistic programs never before seen in Minnesota that will have a significant impact on strengthening Minnesota’s artistic/cultural community.” She’s the author of the children’s book

When Everything Was Everything and is best known for her award-winning play *Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Cannibals*. She’s currently the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation playwright-in-residence at Theater Mu, a McKnight Foundation fellow in community engaged practice art, a Jerome Hill Artist fellow in playwriting, a Minnesota State Arts Board and Forecast public art grantee, and serves as a member at large on the City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR board. | @refugenius

* member of the Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

AGAIN

book and additional lyrics by **KATIE KA VANG**
music and lyrics by **MELISSA LI**
directed by **NANA DAKIN**

CAST

Broc, Doc, Dad, Snail, and others **SONG KIM**
Mai See **MEGHAN KREIDLER ***
Quest **MICHI LEE**
Shia **PAGNIA XIONG**
Stage Directions **PACHIA VANG**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Music Director **ISABELLA DAWIS**
Stage Manager **JAYA ROBILLARD**
Dramaturg **BEN KRYWOSZ**
Music Assistant **BRONWEN CHAN**
COVID-19 Safety Coordinator **BARRY INMAN**

EXOTIC DEADLY: OR THE MSG PLAY

by **KEIKO GREEN**
directed by **RICH REMEDIOS**

CAST

Mom, Jamholder, Kazuko, and others **LILY TUNG CRYSTAL ***
Ami **ISABELLA DAWIS ***
Ojichan, Kenji, Doctor, and others **SONG KIM**
Ben, Benkei, and others **WESLEY MOURI ***
Exotic Deadly **HOPE NORDQUIST**
Matt, Mr. Ajinomoto, **ERIC SHARP ***
Dr. Steele, and others
Stage Directions **CHUFUE YANG**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager **JANE PEÑA**
COVID-19 Safety Coordinator **BARRY INMAN**



KATIE KA VANG (PLAYWRIGHT AND ADDITIONAL LYRICS)

Katie (she/her) is a playwright and theatre artist. Her work explores the complexities of culture, identity, dis-ease, survivorship, and the familial. Her plays and works include *WTF*; *Hmong Bollywood*; *5:1 Meaning of Freedom*; *6:2 Use of Sharpening*; *Fast FWD Motions*; *In Quarantine*; *Final Round*; and *Spirit Trust*. Her work has been developed and presented at Pangea World Theater, Pillsbury House Theatre, Theater Mu, Leviathan Lab, Bushwick Starr, Brown University, the Royal Court Theatre (London), the Walker Art Center, Out North Art House, and more. She has received support from the Jerome Foundation, Knight Foundation, NPN, MRAC, MSAB, and Coalition of Asian American Leaders. She was selected to be a member of East West Players' 21/22 playwright's group in Los Angeles, California. She received a 20/21 Many Voices fellowship at the Playwrights' Center. She has an MFA in playwriting from Brown University.



MELISSA LI (COMPOSER AND LYRICIST)

Melissa (she/her) is a composer, lyricist, performer, and writer based in New York City. She is a 2021 Kleban Prize recipient, Jonathan Larson Award winner, Dramatists Guild Foundation fellow, Lincoln Center Theater writer-in-residence, 2019 Musical Theatre Factory maker, MacDowell fellow, Company One Pao Arts fellow, and former Queer|Art|Mentorship fellow. Musicals include *Interstate* (Mixed Blood '20, NAMT '19 Selection, New York Musical Festival '18 winner for outstanding lyrics), *Surviving the Nian* (the Theater Offensive '07, IRNE Award Winner for best new play), and *99% Stone* (the Theater Offensive). Her works have received support from the 5th Avenue Theatre, the Village Theater, Musical Theater Factory, National Performance Network, New England Foundation for the Arts, Dixon Place, and others.



KEIKO GREEN (PLAYWRIGHT)

Keiko (she/her) is in her third and final year in the MFA playwriting program at UC San Diego, after which she will be relocating to Los Angeles with her husband MJ and very handsome basset hound Gus. She is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter, performer, and proud core company member at ACT Theatre in Seattle. Her plays have been developed and/or produced by the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Playwrights Realm, ACT Theatre, the Kennedy Center, National New Play Network, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Actors Express. As an actor, Keiko has performed at the Denver Center of Performing Arts, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, ACT Theatre, Seattle Shakespeare Company, and the National Asian American Theatre Company, among others. She is currently working on commissions from the Old Globe Theatre and ACT Theatre, as well as consulting on a television series for Amazon Japan.

THE COMPANY



LILY TUNG CRYSTAL * (DIRECTOR 🌀, ACTOR ▲)

Lily (she/her) is the artistic director of Theater Mu. After taking the helm of Theater Mu in 2019, Lily directed Jiehae Park's *peerless* and Mu's live mainstage film-theater production of Susan Soon He Stanton's *Today Is My Birthday*. She is also directing the upcoming Mu/Jungle co-production of Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band*. Outside of Theater Mu, Lily's directing work includes David Henry Hwang's *Chinglish* and his revival of *Flower Drum Song* at Palo Alto Players, and the world premiere of Leah Nanako Winkler's *Two Mile Hollow* at Ferocious Lotus. For all three shows, she was named a Theatre Bay Area Award Finalist for Outstanding Direction. As an actor, Lily has performed at theaters across the country, including Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor, Cal Shakes, Crowded Fire, Ferocious Lotus, Magic Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, New World Stages, Portland Center Stage, SF Playhouse, and Syracuse Stage. Lily is a YBCA 100 honoree, named by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts as a "creative pioneer making the provocations that will shape the future of culture." | theatermu.org, lilytungcrystal.com



NANA DAKIN (DIRECTOR ☾)

Nana (she/her) is a queer Thai American director of new work, classics, and devised performance based in New York City. Her work pursues social equity by examining the way culture is constructed and unsettling dormant biases. Upcoming: *Lost Coast* (the Playwrights Realm INK'D Festival) and *Mammelephant* (Superhero Clubhouse/122CC). Recent: *Passage* (University of North Carolina School of the Arts), *Sorry/Not Sorry* (Ars Nova ANT Fest), *Sunwatcher* (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater Global Forms Festival, Ancram Opera House Play Lab, Civilians Findings Series), *Love Letter to a Seed* (Clubbed Thumb Winterworks), *White Pearl* (Royal Court Theatre), an all-women and non-binary production of Shakespeare's *Richard III* (Lenfest Center for the Arts). She has developed new work at Ensemble Studio Theatre, NYTW, the Song Collective, the Tank, and Columbia University's International Play

Reading Festival. MFA theatre directing: Columbia University. | nanadakin.com



ISABELLA DAWIS * (MUSIC DIRECTOR ☾, ACTOR ▲)

Isabella (she/her) is a Filipina American theatre artist. Theater Mu credits include: *peerless* (opposite sister Francesca), *The Mikado*, *Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them*, *Filipino Hearts*, and *The Walleye Kid*, and her play *Bones of a Horse* was featured in Mu's *You Shall Hear Me* audio series and 2021 New Eyes Festival. As a librettist and lyricist, Isabella is the recipient of the 2022 Kleban Prize, the 2021 Fred Ebb Award, and the 2020 Weston-Ghostlight New Musical Award. She currently holds a Composers and the Voice fellowship with the American Opera Project. Her collaborations with composer Tidtaya Sinutoke include *Half the Sky* (5th Avenue Theatre Digital Radio Play/First Draft Commission, Rhinebeck Writers Retreat, Mu's New Eyes, Theater Latté Da's NEXT) and *Sunwatcher* (Civilians' R&D, Goodspeed's Writers Grove, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Ancram Opera House, Tofte Lake Center). BM *summa cum laude*, piano performance, University of Minnesota, with vocal study at New England Conservatory.



ALEX GALICK * (ACTOR 🌀)

Alex (he/him) is excited to be working with Mu again. Past productions include *Into the Woods*, *A Little Night Music*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Purple Cloud*. He has worked with local Twin Cities companies at the Guthrie, Stillwater Zephyr, and Park Square, as well with regional companies such as Swine Palace in Baton Rouge, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and the Tony award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival. You can also see him in upcoming indie features *Hair-Trigger* and *Accidental Family*. A Macalester College graduate, Alex is also a graduate of Louisiana State University's MFA acting program.



AYDEN HER (ACTOR 🌀)

Ayden (she/her) is excited to return to Theater Mu as a part of *Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Shaman Warrior*. She had taken a break from performing arts for a few years to

focus on her school and athletics. She was accepted into the University of Minnesota and was to be a part of the school's swim and dive team, but she decided to take a gap year to pursue other passions before returning to academics. She is excited to return to performing arts and reconnect with her Theater Mu family!



SONG KIM (ACTOR ☾ ▲)

Song (he/him) grew up in Portland, Oregon, and has worked in different capacities with various companies in the Twin Cities and elsewhere. He has performed with Nimbus, Theater Mu, History Theatre, and most recently appeared in Full Circle Theater Company's *The Empathy Project* at Park Square Theatre.



MEGHAN KREIDLER * (ACTOR ☾)

Meghan (she/her) is a Twin Cities-based actor and musician. She has worked with many TC theaters including Theater Mu, Mixed Blood Theatre, Theater Latté Da, Guthrie Theater, Children's Theatre Company, the History Theatre, Park Square Theatre, and Ten Thousand Things. She also fronts local rock 'n' roll band Kiss the Tiger. She was named the 2017 emerging artist for the Ivey Awards and was the 2017 *City Pages'* artist of the year. | meghankreidler.com



BEN KRYWOSZ (DRAMATURG ☾)

Ben (he/him) is the co-founder of Nautilus Music-Theater, where he directs fully staged productions, hosts *Rough Cuts* (a monthly works-in-progress series), leads the Wesley Balk Opera/Music-Theater Institute, and facilitates composer-librettist studios around the country. His productions include local and world premieres of *Twisted Apples*, *Ordinary Days*, *The View from Here*, *Joan of Arc*, *John and Jen*, *Sister Stories*, *Orpheus and Euridice*, and *I Am Anne Frank*, as well as innovative stagings of *Carousel*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Fantasticks*. Ben also serves as a lecturer, group facilitator, community organizer, and administrative consultant, and teaches classes in collaboration. He is currently working on the premiere of *Moonlit Walk Home*, set to premiere at Nautilus this spring.



JEANNIE LANDER (ACTOR 🌀)

Jeannie (she/her) has numerous on-camera industrials and print media, and she has appeared at Theater Mu (*Fast Company*, *Into the Woods*, *Yellow Fever*, *Kung Fu Zombies Vs. Cannibals*, *Purple Cloud*), Walking Shadow (*36 Views*), Bedlam Theatre (10-Minute Play Festival), Nimbus (*American Noise*), and more.



MICHI LEE (ACTOR ☾)

Michi (she/her) is thrilled to be working with Theater Mu again! She holds a BFA in musical theatre from Viterbo University. Her previous acting credits include: #7 in *The Wolves*, Spider in *James and the Giant Peach*, and the Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*. When not performing, you can find her working as a vocal, piano, and musical theater instructor at Spark School of Music in Osseo. She would like to thank everyone at Theater Mu for providing a safe space for Asian American stories to be told. She would also like to thank her best boys Corey and Jimmy.



C. "MEAKS" MEAKER (DRAMATURG 🌀)

Meaks (she/they) is a playwright, screenwriter, and dramaturg currently based in the Twin Cities. Their work often explores queerness, feminism, and the end of the world. They are a former Jerome fellow at the Playwrights' Center, an alumna of Seattle Repertory Theatre's writers group, and former Walter E. Dakin fellow at Sewanee Writers' Conference. They are a graduate of Knox College and received an MFA in playwriting from University of Iowa's Playwrights Workshop. They currently teach queer theater and playwriting around the Twin Cities. In their spare time, they obsessively research monster and zombie theory, *DM Dungeons and Dragons*, and drink a lot of tea while reading cozy mysteries.



WESLEY MOURI * (ACTOR ▲)

Wesley (he/him) has appeared on the Mu mainstage in *Flower Drum Song* and *A Little Night Music*. Other selected credits include

South Pacific, The Cocoanuts, The Music Man (Guthrie Theater); *Jesus Christ Superstar, The Broadway Songbook: Rebels on Broadway* (Ordway Center for the Performing Arts); *Hamlet* (Park Square Theatre); *Cinderella* (Children's Theater Company); *Hello Dolly!, The Little Mermaid, Bye Bye Birdie* (Chanhassen Dinner Theatres). Wesley's passion for Asian representation in the arts extends behind the scenes through his work as development director for Theater Mu. Love to his fiancé Brandon and their kittens Miso and Mochi.



HOPE NORDQUIST (ACTOR ▲)

Hope (she/her) is a multidisciplinary performer in the Twin Cities. She has been seen at Mu in *Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, *tot: The Untold Story of a Filipino Hulk Hogan*, *Twelfth Night*, and *A Little Night Music*. She has been seen at Park Square Theatre, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Umbrella Collective, and the Moving Company. She can be seen every month at the Saloon where she performs as a singer and burlesque artist in Hot Pink. She is excited to be back at Mu for a new adventure!



JANE PEÑA (STAGE MANAGER ▲)

Jane (she/her) wears many hats as Theater Mu's office manager and literary associate. She comes from a background in literary management and dramaturgy, having completed a string of literary internships and freelance script supervisory jobs with the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, the Playwrights' Center, Goodman Theater, Cedar Summerstock Theater, and more. You can find Jane in most Mu production lobbies and live chats as the house manager, helping you with your tickets as the box office representative, and as the friendly voice on the other end of the Mu front desk phone line. She is also thrilled to be on the literary committee along with Artistic Director Lily Tung Crystal and Artistic Associate Annie Jin Wang. In that capacity, Jane takes great pride in nurturing and expanding Mu's community of writers.



TOM REED (ACTOR ➔)

Tom (he/him) is thrilled to make his Mu debut! Tom is an actor/writer/improviser with credits including *Christmas of Swing* (Bud Abbott) at History Theatre; the world premiere of *Interstate: The Musical* (Pastor Fred), *Hooded: Or Being Black for Dummies* (Hunter), *Gloria* (Dean), *Next to Normal* (Henry), and *Avenue Q* (Princeton) at Mixed Blood Theatre; nearly 20 sketch comedy productions with very punny names at Brave New Workshop Comedy Theater; and many improv shows including *Lounge-asaurus Rex* and *Creature Feature* at HUGE Improv Theater. Tom also created popular Minnesota Fringe Festival parodies of everything from *Harry Potter* to *Game of Thrones*. Film and TV: *The Public Domain* and Netflix's *Lady Dynamite* (Donald). | tombreed.com



RICH REMEDIOS * (DIRECTOR ▲, ACTOR ➔)

Rich (he/him) is a Minneapolis-based actor, director, and teacher. His acting credits include Broadway productions of *An Inspector Calls* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* He has also performed at various theaters in the Twin Cities and around the country, including *Man of God* and *Purple Cloud* for Theater Mu. Film and television work include *The Public Domain*, *To Say Goodbye*, *Drop Dead Diva*, and recurring roles on the daytime dramas *All My Children* and *As the World Turns*. Directing credits include *The Pillowman* for Theatre Coup d'Etat and the world premiere *Trust* at the Lab Theater. He was assistant director for *Charles Frances Chan Jr...* and *You Shall Hear Me*, as well as associate director for *Today Is My Birthday*, all for Theater Mu. He teaches all levels of acting at Augsburg University, Mu Training Institute, and in his studio Twin Cities Actor Training.



LIA RIVAMONTE (ACTOR ➔)

Lia (she/her) finds it strange but sort of wonderful to be back on the stage after a long hiatus. She arrived in the Twin Cities from the S.F. Bay Area decades ago to work as an actor at Mixed Blood Theatre. Switching gears to focus on painting, she received her MFA at the U of M while continuing to act in local theatres until eventually taking on administrative roles at arts nonprofits. She has received grants from the Minneso-

ta State Arts Board and the MRAC Next Step grant to support writing projects. Her affiliation with Mu goes way back—elders may remember her play, *Filipino Sisters*, produced by Mu in the '90s, and she also worked on early New Eyes and did a stint with Mu Daiko back in the day. More recently, she participated in the reading of *Book of Hours* for Six Points Theater's New Play Festival.



JAYA ROBILLARD (STAGE MANAGER ☾)

Jaya (she/her) is thrilled to return to Theater Mu for the New Eyes Festival! She has previously worked with Mu on *peerless* and the 2020 TwentyPho Hour PlayFest. She has stage managed with many other local companies, including Park Square Theatre, Sandbox Theatre (company member since 2017), Artistry Theater, and Collide. She is passionate about creating new work and continuing to foster a positive and inclusive theatre community.



JANET SCANLON (ACTOR ➔)

Janet (she/they) is delighted to be returning to Theater Mu. She recently graduated from the University of Minnesota in human physiology and is grateful to participate (safely) in theatre during COVID. Acting is truly her passion and her way of honoring herself and all others involved. Her most recent production was Theater Mu's *Man of God* as Kyung-Hwa.



ERIC SHARP * (ACTOR ▲)

Eric (he/him) is a longtime Theater Mu actor and serves on the company's artistic advisory committee. He has appeared in *Today is My Birthday*, *Hot Asian Doctor Husband*, *Charles Francis Chan Jr...*, *Two Mile Hollow*, *Yellow Fever*, *Twelfth Night*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Immigrant Journey Project*, among many others. Eric recently directed the YouTube series *The Remix with Theater Mu*, and produced, directed, and performed in *You Shall Hear Me: Stories From Beyond*. Other credits include Paula Vogel's *Bard at the Gate*, Guthrie Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Trademark Theater, the Jungle Theater, Live Action Set, Alliance Theatre, and the Minnesota, Toronto, and Edinburgh Fringe Festivals. Eric's voiceover work can be heard on Netflix, Hulu, HBO Max, and Penguin Random House Audio.

Catch him onstage this summer in the Mu/Jungle Theater co-production of Lauren Yee's *Cambodian Rock Band*. | worksharp.org



KAVYA SHETTY (STAGE DIRECTIONS ➔)

Kavya (she/her) is excited to celebrate both new works and the return to in-person theatre with this year's New Eyes Festival! She graduated with a BA in theatre from Macalester College right before the pandemic and has definitely missed creating and getting to be in community with other artists the last couple years. Thank you to Theater Mu for providing a space that both shares and uplifts Asian American stories!



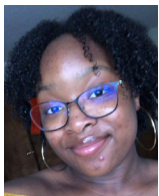
KAYSONE SYONESIA (ACTOR ➔)

Kaysone (she/her) is excited to be making her debut with Theater Mu. She is a Lao American artist who holds a BA in theatre arts from the University of Minnesota. She has a multidisciplinary background and has been in over 20 productions as a storyteller and theatre artist with various theatre companies in the Twin Cities including Pangea World Theater, Teatro del Pueblo, and Green T Productions. Kaysone continues to expand her work as a lead artist and cultural storyteller with the Southeast Asian communities in SEA Echoes Through Rivers.



PACHIA VANG (STAGE DIRECTIONS ☾)

PaChia (she/her) has been a longtime fan of Theater Mu, and she is thrilled to make her debut as a performer for the company. PaChia is a Hmong American actress and artist based in the Twin Cities. She has performed mostly in independent film and new media. Some works she has appeared in include the Lifetime holiday film *The Christmas Listing* (2020), web series *Hmong Organization* (2018), and short films *Rhaub* (2018), *The Flour That Made Us* (2021), and *Stitch* (2021). She has also trained with Theater Mu, Guthrie Theater, Funny Asian Women Kollektive (FAWK), Groundlings Theatre and School (L.A.), and the BGB Studio (L.A.). PaChia is proud to take part in the staged reading of *Again*, and would like to thank Theater Mu for this opportunity.



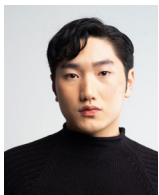
**AJAH WILLIAMS
(STAGE MANAGER 🔄)**

Ajah is a senior at Hamline University and will graduate this May! Recent roles include ASM for *Sherwood* at Yellow Tree Theatre and the ASM understudy for Theater Mu's recent production of *Man of God*.



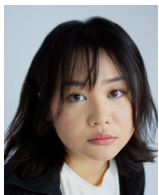
PAGNIA XIONG (ACTOR ☺)

Pagnia (she/her) is an internationally recognized Hmong American music artist and creative producer. Her work empowers listeners to dream big and live their best lives with influences of her culture, life experiences, and inner truth. Since 2006, she has performed globally for over 175,000 people and has recorded three full-length albums. Her work has garnered 40,000-plus followers and reached more than 1.3 million video views. At age 16, Pagnia made her acting debut in *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* with the Eau Claire Children's Theatre in her hometown, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. With a passion for healing and performance, 20 years later, she comes with a beginner's mind to revive her fascination with acting and theater. Pagnia is deeply grateful to be a part of *Again*, her first Theater Mu production.



**CHUFUE YANG
(STAGE DIRECTIONS ▲)**

Chufue (he/him) is a second-generation Hmong American actor, model, and graphic designer based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Although his most recent works have been in film and commercial print, Chufue's respect for the theater dates back to the young thespian wanting to find more Asian American representation on screen and the stage. You can find more of his works here at chufue.com.



**DEXIENG "DAE" YANG
(ACTOR 🔄)**

Dae (she/her) is a Hmong American actress and teaching artist in the Twin Cities that graduated from Augsburg University, majoring in theatre with concentrations in playwriting, dramaturgy, and directing. Dae has worked with Theater Mu in *The Korean Drama Addict's Guide to*

Losing Your Virginity, *The Last Firefly*, and *Man of God*, and she has been an active participant in Theater Mu's Training Institute. Her other works include *Neighbors* at History Theatre and *Shul* at Six Points Theater. She is currently a company member of *Breaking Ice* with Pillsbury House Theatre.

ABOUT THEATER MU

THEATER MU is the second largest Asian American theater company in the nation. Founded in 1992, Mu's continuing goal to celebrate and empower the Asian American community is achieved through productions, emerging artist support, and outreach programs. Theater Mu is a member of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists, as well as a member of the Twin Cities Theatres of Color Coalition, proudly standing alongside New Native Theatre, Pangea World Theater, Penumbra Theatre, and Teatro Del Pueblo. Mu is co-led by Artistic Director Lily Tung Crystal and Managing Director Anh Thu Pham.

WHAT DOES MU MEAN? Mu (pronounced MOO) is the Korean pronunciation of the Chinese character for the shaman/artist/warrior who connects the heavens and the earth through the tree of life.

WE ARE GRATEFUL to our donors. With your support, we are able to provide Pay As You Are ticketing, youth outreach programs, production mentorships, and more. Scan the QR code below to see our complete list of season donors.



SPECIAL THANKS to Monkeybear for providing the lighting for New Eyes Festival. Monkeybear's Harmolodic Workshop supports Native, Black, and IPOC in developing creative and technical skills in contemporary puppetry. | monkeybear.org

2021/22 SEASON SPONSORS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural fund.



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